

THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025

# Changing the "Standard"

## Tragedy at The Meadows

Hunter Myers, 27, dies following on-track accident

Driver Hunter Myers, 27, died at a Pittsburgh hospital from injuries sustained in a multiple-horse accident that transpired during the 11th race on Wednesday afternoon (March 19) at The Meadows.

Myers was driving Always B Royalty in the event and was thrown from the bike after leader Uptown Callie (Dave Palone) made a break before three-quarters and triggered a chain reaction spill that impacted five horses in total. Drivers Jeremy Indof, Case Bateson, Aaron Merriman and Brady Brown and their horses Dandy's Starlette, Louie The Lilac, Crystal Sands and Lorraine J were also caught up in the wreck, with their conditions reported to be banged up but otherwise okay.

The remaining two races on the program at The Meadows were canceled and Myers was transported via helicopter to the hospital following the accident.

Just after 5 a.m. on March 20, fiancée Chloe Fisher announced the devastating news on Facebook, saying in part: "My whole world, my best friend, the love of my life & the best daddy ever. I truly don't even have the words...I'm so blessed & thankful for all the love you gave me & our baby boy. I know you'd tell me stay strong & I got this. I'll raise our little boy to be just like you...Watch over us honey. I love you forever & ever."

An Ohio native from a family of horsepeople, Myers began his career in 2014 and won 2,450 races while steering horses to over \$21.7 million in earnings. He was a regular in the driving colony at both The Meadows and MGM Northfield Park. In 2024, Myers guided eventual Dan Patch Award winner Allegiant to victories in the Currier & Ives at The Meadows and Moni Maker at Eldorado Scioto Downs.

Racing has been canceled at The Meadows for the rest of the week. The track and Meadows Standardbred Owners

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MEADOWLANDS VIDEO SCREEN SHOT

The field is spread across the track just after the start of a March 14 race at five-eighths of a mile.



## AT THE TRACK

By Darin Zoccali [X AtTheTrack7](#)

Last week, The Meadowlands conducted a race at a five-eighths mile distance. While we have seen races held at distances other than a mile in the past, a "sprint" of less than a mile is something I do not recall seeing at The Meadowlands.

I do remember calling races at the five-eighths distance at Tioga Downs years ago when I announced races there. Though, that was a slightly different experience as that distance matched the circumference of the racetrack and thus was one full lap around the oval.

Like anything else horse racing and specifically harness racing tries to do, the experiment was met with mixed results on social media. One user went so far to refer to it as "garbage". I disagree.

The race was highly entertaining to watch. Horses sprinting into the far turn; not fishing for cover; no half-in, half-out. The drivers themselves were possibly a bit unsure how to steer their horses and what the right approach is in such a race. Sure, you can argue that all of that means it is not a great betting proposition and to that point, I concede that could be correct. But, these things take time. Success or failure cannot be measured by a single attempt.

In order to make it a better betting proposition, I would suggest creating a series at the sprint-like distance so that these horses can develop some form, drivers can learn the right strategy and bettors may feel more comfortable wagering on them.

The horses who contested this race on March 14th do not routinely race for a lot of money and a series with legs that went for \$12,500 or \$15,000 each week, culminating in a loftier final, could prove beneficial to the experiment.

The race last week was won by 48-1 shot Some-surfsomewhere, who benefited from a pylon-skimming trip as others raced wide, prompted the pace or fanned out across the track. Perhaps the thought process of the drivers was this was not the kind of race where taking back and hoping for a hole to open up would prove to be the right strategy. But, as it turned out, that was the exact right strategy for the winner.

I suggested implementing a series so these horses can show form at the odd distance, because that will be important for the bettors. The randomness of these races would be problematic. As much fun as it was to watch the race last Friday, if the bettors are not confident wagering on it, it will not be successful. Horses showing race lines at the distance will go a long way to building that confidence.

While there is no five-eighths mile Dash for the Cash (hey, that would make a good name for the series), there is a one and one-eighth mile trotting event on Friday night. This is a distance The Meadowlands has experimented with before, even in some of their biggest races, including the Hambletonian Maturity. My belief is bettors will have more confidence in this race than they did the one-turn sprint last week, just based on history. I even remember during my time at The Meadowlands we tried one and one-half mile events with up to 14-horse fields to try and add

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



# IT'S THE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE

## 2023 Trotter of the Year

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something new to the sport. But the inability to do it often and the resulting randomness of that experiment did not help in the eyes of the bettors.

The American model for Standardbred racing has traditionally been the one mile event. Regardless of the size of the racetrack, 99.8% of our races over the past 40 years have been at the one mile distance. The Meadowlands at one time had the Classic series, which was for the premier horses in the sport, racing in a series at varying distances, but that series did not make it into the 21st century.

The Meadowlands has proven once again that they are not afraid to try new things. Years ago they tried the classified racing system, which actually made for some really great racing. They have tried races at different distances throughout their history. This year they will eliminate the post-time drag during the Championship meet, a brazen move that could have serious impacts on racing handle. But it is a necessary step to reversing a trend that has honestly become ridiculous and I hope the rest of the industry supports them, though I imagine many racetracks will be afraid to do so. An idea that was initially implemented for racetracks to “stay-off” one another, meaning not running races at the same time, has gone crazy. The original one- to two-minute drag has turned into seven, eight or nine minutes. If you are at the racetrack it is an awful experience where you find yourself standing around wondering when the race is going to start.

I don't know if the post-time drag is too far gone. I suppose we will find out. By my count there are 28 days of racing that comprise the Championship Meet. Removing Meadowlands Pace and Hambletonian Day, the remaining race cards average around \$3.2 million, for a total of \$83.2 million in handle. If we add in Meadowlands Pace and Hambletonian, we are looking at around \$95 million in handle for the meet. If the removal of drag caused a 20 per-cent decline in handle, it would result in a \$19

million handle loss. That sounds like a lot, but at a four percent export signal fee, that is a \$760,000 revenue loss before taxes and the split with the horsemen, so that likely would mean about \$300,000 to operational revenue and \$300,000 to purses.

So, The Meadowlands is rolling the dice on a couple of items, one of which requires industry support. The Meadowlands has routinely gone out on a limb, often by themselves, over the past decade. Some of those matters have been controversial. These matters are not and should both be supported by the industry to add excitement and reverse a negative trend of the past decade.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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**Comments? Questions? Email the Editor [DGiwner@DRF.com](mailto:DGiwner@DRF.com)**



## EDITOR'S EYE

By Derick Giwner X [@harnessejeguy](https://twitter.com/harnessejeguy)

### Removing the judgment from judging

If you own, train, drive or bet on horses, there is a 100% chance you've witnessed a race where the inquiry sign lit up on the toteboard and the final outcome was immediately in doubt. There is also no doubt that at times the ultimate decision of the Judges went in your favor and others when it didn't.

Being a Judge is a difficult job. You are charged with protecting the public's best interest as well as looking out for the horses and sport in general. At times those priorities overlap and the lines can be blurry as to the right decision. This no doubt occurred at The Meadowlands a few weeks ago when a race was declared a no contest to seemingly protect the horses and horsemen in the race. In the end the bettors got the worst of it. Those who had winning wagers lost their profit and people who attempted to wager on those horses next week were left with no past performance lines in the program outlining what occurred in the race. If you were a Judge in that room and felt strongly that the race shouldn't count for wagering purposes, the best course of action would've been to make the race for purse money only, but I only rehash the issue to point out that Judges are going to make some bad decisions. They are human and are put on the spot every race on every day/night.

For me the key is to take the decision making away from the Judges. I'm not looking to fire them but rather ease their load. A case in point occurred on March 15 at The Meadowlands. In the eighth race there was an incident in the stretch between two horses – Saulsbrook Hero and Mayhem Hanover. Just going by visual evidence – I don't want to open the Pandora's Box that is whether Judges should speak to the drivers involved – it was clear that Mayhem Hanover drifted out and Saulsbrook Hero came in as the horses neared the wire. You could make the case that Mayhem Hanover may've impeded the progress of his foe, but there was really no way to tell for certain, and that's the problem.

The big question is whether Judges should be evaluating on-track incidents by using a preponderance of the evidence or beyond reason-

able doubt as their guide. Civil cases use the former while criminal trials the latter. I would argue that our Judges should be sticking to the no doubt standard for two reasons: 1) It takes the heat off of them in close calls. 2) Their decisions are taking money out of potentially thousands of people's hands – owners, bettors, drivers, trainers. This can't be taken lightly. You have to be absolutely sure.

Of course, I wasn't in the room. Maybe all three Judges felt strongly and had no doubt that Saulsbrook Hero was at fault. Maybe the Presiding Judge was firm and the other two didn't have a strong opinion. In theory majority should rule, but that would mean that one of the people in the room thought it was a bad call and that doesn't sit right with me. That said, if a decision needs to be unanimous to disqualify a horse that opens up a scary door with so many ex-horsepeople in the Judges booth. Subconsciously there has to be biases, and to be clear I'm not accusing anyone. Sometimes it is as simple as giving a Hall of Famer the benefit of the doubt that you wouldn't give to a newer driver. It reminds me of an old baseball story where a catcher complained about the strike zone when Ted Williams was hitting and the umpire replied something along the lines of Mr. Williams will let you know when it is a strike.

The incident at The Meadowlands wasn't the only one I've seen lately. There was one at Yonkers Raceway a few weeks ago when a horse was disqualified for seemingly impeding the path of another horse on the first turn. The interference may've occurred. Personally I wasn't completely convinced from the visual evidence and maybe in this case that it involved an amateur race that played a role in the decision making. There really isn't any way of knowing for sure because Judges don't tend to like to talk about these things publicly, and that is something I'd like to see changed.

So here is what I'd like to see happen. It's a simple three-step plan: Decisions need to be beyond a reasonable doubt.

The decision of each Judge must anonymously be revealed to the public and then later to the state racing commission for review.

A Judge must verbally explain the decision to the public on the simulcast feed after the race.

If the purpose of Judges is truly to protect the betting public then the above goes a long way to creating more transparency, leaving people with real answers to the questions they have after disqualifications.

For what it's worth, both disqualifications – at The Meadowlands and Yonkers – benefitted me financially, so none of what I wrote is brought on by bitterness. It is simply about treating the betting public with respect by creating more consistency and clarity.



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# Go Dog Go maturing as he embarks on the Hambletonian trail



## JAYWALKING

By Jay Bergman ✕ [BergmanJay](#)

It's still quite early in the racing season to know how the events will play out when the 100th Hambletonian is raced at The Meadowlands on August 2 as the field is far from being set and many of the potential horses that will fill the entry box are still in their preliminary stages of conditioning. Trainer Carter Pinske has about 60 horses in training at his family's South Oaks Training Center in Florida with one horse that may have a date with destiny come this summer.

"He raced pretty late into the year and we gave him about 55-60 days out," said Pinske when asked about Go Dog Go, a now-3-year-old son of Greenshoe that returned to his stable in mid-February following a Kentucky vacation and is slowly moving towards his sophomore racing season. "He looks great and seems to have matured."



AMANDA STEPHENS

Third in the Breeders Crown, Go Dog Go is prepping for the 2025 Hambletonian at The Meadowlands.

For Pinske, that maturation will be a key to just what kind of year Go Dog Go will have since the colt is blessed with extreme speed, but for a few weeks in Lexington last year he lacked the discipline necessary to win races that he appeared to have already won.

"It's something you just have to move on from," said Pinske when discussing the breaks that Go Dog Go made for no apparent reason during the Grand Circuit meet at The Red Mile, snatching defeat from apparent victory.

"He's probably the most athletic horse I've ever had," Pinske said, describing the colt that has the incredibly fast Greenshoe as a sire and hails from the immediate maternal line of the brilliant Mission Brief. On that front, Pinske recognized what has become a quirk of the pedigree. "Actually, he's got a little of it from both sides of his pedigree." The "It" is likely a lack of focus that can lead to a horse making breaks at the most inopportune times in a race.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 6](#)

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## 2025 WINBAK FARM OF DELAWARE STALLION HIGHLIGHTS



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p, 2, 1:50.2; 1:50.1f (\$520,015)

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p, 2, 1:52.1s; 3, 1:50.1s; 1:49.1s (\$550,644)

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Pinske took a conservative approach to Go Dog Go's racing career, qualifying him in late July before dropping him in the box for a leg of the Kentucky Commonwealth on July 28. With Todd McCarthy in the bike Go Dog Go went from last to first in the stretch over a sloppy surface, giving just a hint of the kind of raw speed he possessed.

One week later Go Dog Go would be racing with the best in Sire Stakes competition at The Red Mile and make a break while attempting the same sweeping move.

Both Pinske and McCarthy showed patience and it would be rewarded, with Go Dog Go settling down and capturing a leg of the Kentucky Championship division before going on to finish second in the \$400,000 final on September 15.

Two Grand Circuit races would see Go Dog Go leading in the stretch and making unkind breaks in stride for no apparent reason. Still, despite the disappointment, Pinske had ultimate confidence in his horse and his chances.

"When we sent him to The Meadowlands, I thought he was good enough to win one of the big races," said Pinske. "We made some changes and he raced better but we just didn't get the win."

Trotting hoppers were part of the change and during his stay at The Meadowlands Go Dog Go remained on stride and put in some major performances, including finishing a game third in the Breeders Crown final following a long and determined coverless grind. He followed that up with a multiple-move effort in the Valley Victory in late November that also resulted in a third-place finish.

"We'll get him ready and send him to New Jersey in July for the big races," said Pinske with confidence that Go Dog Go will be ready to tackle the elite in this year's sophomore crop. Despite some major disappointments and leaving money on the table, Go Dog Go banked nearly \$308K during his freshman campaign, with a good amount earned in Kentucky.

"We've got about 60 horses in training and only a handful aren't dual-bred or Kentucky-bred," said Pinske. "We bought a farm in Kentucky (Versailles) with about 50 stalls. It puts us near the three Kentucky tracks."



AMANDA STEPHENS

**Aperfect Annie led all Carter Pinske trainees with over \$350K earned in 2024.**

For Pinske, who had stabled in New Jersey, the move makes it more efficient for his staff and the horses to compete in Kentucky and beyond.

While Go Dog Go may have been Pinske's fastest freshman, he wasn't the richest in the stable, with Aperfect Annie, a daughter of Googoo Gaagaa, earning \$350K by virtue of her success in the Kentucky program as well as a second-place finish in a Breeders Crown elimination race.

"I think we're going to point her more for Kentucky this year," said Pinske of the filly that as a freshman captured the \$400,000 Kentucky Championship final. "I don't think she has the speed of the top five in the division."

Clearly with the rich Kentucky program there's a tremendous advantage to staying close to home, though the competition will certainly be fierce with many other top sophomore fillies enjoying the dual eligibility.

Pinske seemed happy with the progress of his freshman class but cautioned those looking to find them racing in June. "I'm a little slower than most at this time of year," said Pinske, hopeful that the strategy will lead to success in the fall.

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Association released the following statement:

*Hollywood Casino at The Meadows and the Meadows Standardbred Owners Association would like to pass along our most sincere condolences and heartfelt prayers to the family and friends of Hunter Myers, who passed away early this morning after a tragic racing accident at The Meadows yesterday afternoon. Our thoughts and sympathy are with his fiancée, Chloe Fisher, and son, Hayden Myers during this time.*

*Hunter was a rising star in our industry. The Meadows racing community, and the entire harness racing industry, are deeply saddened by this tragic event.*

The Ohio Harness Horseman's Association posted the following to its Facebook page: "Hunter was a young star and was taken too early from us. The OHHA sends prayers and condolences to Hunter's [fiancée] Chloe, their son Hayden, and Hunter's family and friends."

The team at DRF Harness sends its deepest condolences to Chloe Fisher, Hayden and the all of the family and friends of Myers at this difficult time.







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## SIX PACK

(Muscle Mass - Pleasing Lady - Cantab Hall) • 3,1:49.1 (\$1,973,661)



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JESSICA HALLETT

Monticello Raceway hasn't raced since March 4 and the next possible opportunity comes on Monday, March 24.

## By Derick Gwerner

When Monticello Raceway canceled its live racing card after race five on March 4 it was impossible to imagine that two weeks later the wagering public as well as the horsepeople who depend on the track remaining operational to make a living would still be waiting for the next race to commence. The track located in the Catskill region of New York races year-round and has dealt with its share of weather cancelations in the past, but 2025 has been a nightmare.

With a typical racing week of Monday to Thursday, Monticello should have 46 dates in the books as of March 20. The cold, hard reality is only 27 cards have been contested over the half-mile oval which lost three days in January, six in February and 10 in March.

Even when the track is closed horses need to be fed, jogged and attended to on a daily basis. And as one of the lowest year-round tracks on the harness racing purse spectrum, owners and trainers hardly have a slush fund sitting in reserve to handle these expenses. That leaves those horsepeople who rely on the track fighting for survival.

"It's absolutely killing them," said Monticello Harness Horseman's Association President Alan Schwartz on how his members are handling the situation. "There are a couple of people here and there who race out of town and the horseman's association is giving all of the horsemen a few bucks to live on but that's about it for now."

While many tracks tend to deal with thawing issues as the seasons change from winter to spring, and Schwartz mentioned that this change has been worse than normal, Monticello's problem could be deeper.

"I just came in off the track a minute before you called, they've been digging inside the pylons, and it looks like they found some type of water main [issue] or something. They have a sump pump there and are pumping the water out. They may've found the problem," said Schwartz, who called the chances of Monticello racing on March 24, its next scheduled date, "questionable" as of the March 18 conversation.

Every effort is being made to get the track back to racing shape, including calling on outside resources to make the needed repairs.

Schwartz said a meeting with track officials and the New York Gaming Commission has resulted in calling on renowned track maintenance experts to make sure the situation is properly rectified in a timely manner.

"Supposedly we have the Coon brothers coming here as soon as tomorrow [Wednesday] to find out what the problem is and correct the situation," said Schwartz, who described the issue with a little more detail. "From the quarter pole until the turn it is like walking on a sponge. The horses just put their hooves right through it. There is no way we could race on it."

With 19 cancelations already, the purse account has been accumulating excess funds. While Monticello's purses tend to average around \$5,000 per race, when multiplied by eight races per card and 19 missed dates, that total is healthy at just over \$750,000.

"Hopefully we'll raise the purses immediately and get some of it back to the horsemen," said Schwartz, who hinted at perhaps having a series for trainers or horses with a certain number of starts at the track to make sure the money goes to those who have missed out on racing.

The demise of Freehold Raceway certainly doesn't make the Monticello situation any better since that would've been a somewhat comparable track for the horses to visit and earn some money. That said, the horse population at Monticello really hasn't increased much despite the New Jersey track's closure in late December.

"Slightly but not a lot, and I've been monitoring it. I don't know where they are going but they aren't coming here," said Schwartz.

Many Freehold horses have shown up in the lower classes at The Meadowlands and recently so have Monticello regulars in search of an opportunity at some purse money. Five horses with a last past performance line at Monticello were entered at The Meadowlands last weekend and another eight are in-to-go for the March 21 and 22 cards this weekend.

For now, most of the horses on the backstretch are playing the waiting game while hoping the Monticello track surface can be properly restored in a hurry and the "Mighty M" can get back on the schedule at 12:10 p.m. (EDT) daily.



# Father Patrick

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the **\$85,300 Bluegrass**,  
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the **Hambletonian**.

**R DUTCHESS**,  
at 2, winner of the  
**\$68,000 International  
Stallion Stakes**,  
the **Peaceful Series**;  
second in the **KY Sire Stakes**  
and the **Kindergarten**.

Also, **MARYLAND**,  
the **2YO Dan Patch Trotter of the Year**,  
is out of a **FATHER PATRICK** mare!





# Melander hoping for breakout season from Vic Zelenskyy

By Jay Bergman

Though the name Zelenskyy has been in the news daily, Vic Zelenskyy, the 4-year-old son of Greenshoe and Mission Brief, has been absent from the races since a failed attempt at The Breeders Crown in October at The Meadowlands. The good news for racing fans, specifically those in North America, is that Marcus Melander has him back in training and is looking forward to racing him in stakes action this side of the pond.

"I'm grateful to Lennart (Agren-SRF Stable) for keeping him here. He would have a lot of opportunities to race in his native Sweden," said Melander, who seems to want to finish or at least appreciate what Vic Zelenskyy might be able to achieve this year after just 14 starts in 2024, his only year at the races.

"He was sore as a 2-year-old," said Melander of Vic Zelenskyy. That kept him from making the races, and even as a 3-year-old there were times keeping him healthy was a primary objective.

No trainer wants to make mistakes with a \$550,000 yearling and Melander's patience started to pay off late last year when Vic Zelenskyy put in a pair of eye-popping 1:50 1/5 miles at The Red Mile. While the times were fast and the competition wasn't the greatest, there was plenty of indication that with a bit more experience Vic Zelenskyy had more than enough talent to take on the challenge.

"I think with another year there could be more maturity," said Melander, who also expects a more developed horse to have less soundness issues. Melander should know a little bit about the breed in that he trained Vic Zelenskyy's older sister Jaya Bae, a filly with plenty of ability but also plagued by soreness issues. Also, last year's freshman Kadena, a filly by Gimpanzee, was a solid performer in Kentucky.

"She was a big filly," said Melander of the Mission Brief-foaled Kadena. "She took a 1:53 mark at The Red Mile."

Digging deeper into the family, Melander also has the 2-year-old full brother to Jaya Bae named Apex, a \$525,000 purchase at last year's Harrisburg sale.

"He feels better, stronger," said Melander of Vic Zelenskyy, perhaps a telling sign that two years of development may finally have been worth the wait for owners and trainer alike. While the Hambletonian can no longer be won, there is still plenty out there to prove, and most definitely given Vic Zelenskyy's impressive pedigree, a stallion career must be on the table.

"Right now, I'm getting him ready for the Graduate Series," said Melander. "He'll probably qualify a couple of times before that." The first leg of the Graduate is slated for May 31 at Woodbine Mohawk Park."

It will be interesting come July to see which horses show up for the \$400,000 Hambletonian Maturity at The Meadowlands. A total of 36 horses were named to this year's event, with a surprising nine mares on the list. Notable names on the male side joining Vic Zelenskyy include Karl, Highland Kismet and Amazing Catch, with each of those three having huge moments in 2024. On the mare side, Date Night Hanover, Drawn Impression, R Melina and Warrawee Michelle hope to fill the shoes on the racetrack of the now-retired Jiggy Jog S.

With a stable filled with 2 and 3-year-olds, Melander's focus is likely to be on getting to this year's Hambletonian with the winter book favorite Maryland. "He feels great," said Melander when asked about the son of Chapter Seven. With the stakes calendar now in place Melander has set out his preliminary schedule for Maryland.

"We're looking for his first start to be in the Empire Breeders Classic at Vernon," said Melander of the June 13 race that is restricted to New York-sired horses. "There's a Sire Stakes before that but I think we'll pass and qualify him a couple of times at The Meadowlands."

Melander has been in the position of bringing back other solid 2-year-olds for their sophomore campaigns and was asked if there's anything about Maryland's return that may be different. "I think what I'm happiest about is that he only had nine races as a 2-year-old," said Melander.

"We could have raced him in the Valley Victory but I'm glad we didn't."

Maryland handled the extensive traveling as a 2-year-old like a pro and Melander believes that could be to his advantage this year with more stakes racing.

Melander's three-time Breeders Crown champion Gimpanzee had a small first crop hit the racetrack last year and was quite successful. Kadena is looking good coming back for her 3-year-old season but may have limited opportunity. "She doesn't have dual eligibility so it will be tough to find races for her," said Melander.

Luna Lovegood earned \$304K and was Gimpanzee's fastest performer, trotting to a 1:51 4/5 mark at The Red Mile. She ended her freshman campaign on the losing end of a three-way photo finish in the Goldsmith Maid, just a nose behind What A Bid Hanover and Voguish on the wire. She also captured the Matron at Dover Downs against just three rivals.

Melander was also impressed with a son of Gimpanzee named Blank, a fourth-place finisher in the Breeders Crown that could be a sleeper this year.

Melander has a host of quite expensive 2-year-olds in training and as is his

custom has not reached a point in their training to offer his opinion of their potential. He did however offer up a general assessment of where his 3-year-olds are right now.

"We started to bring some of the 3-year-olds that didn't race much last year to The Meadowlands last weekend," said Melander of his practice of showing more speed over the mile track than they can in training on his farm in final preparation for qualifying miles.



AMANDA STEPHENS

Vic Zelenskyy flashed big speed at The Red Mile in 2024.



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# Brett Beckwith goes from Rising Star to Stars and Stripes

By Ken Weingartner

Brett Beckwith's penchant for winning races has already put him among the leading drivers in North America. Later this year, he will take aim at triumphing abroad.

Beckwith, the 2024 Dan Patch Rising Star Award winner, has been selected by the U.S. Trotting Association to wear the Stars and Stripes and represent America in November's World Driving Championship in New Zealand.

Since the beginning of 2023, Beckwith has posted more than 1,200 victories — a total exceeded by only three drivers in North America. He finished seventh in wins in 2023, third in 2024, and is third again so far this season.

For his career, Beckwith, who turned 22 in January, has won more than 1,550 races and earned \$15 million in purses.

"In only his fourth year of full-time driving, Brett Beckwith is a 22-year-old up-and-comer who recently won the U.S. Harness Writers Association's Rising Star Award," said Russell Williams, President of the USTA, "and he topped the standings at Saratoga Raceway and Plainridge Park. His talent and enthusiasm are going to take him a long way, and he's excited to represent the United States in the World Driving Championship. So are we."

Beckwith said accepting the opportunity to compete in the WDC was an easy decision.

"Obviously, it's a huge honor to represent your country," Beckwith said. "Aside from the fact that you get to represent your country, and you're driving against seven, eight, nine of the best people in their respective countries, you're also getting the chance to visit other parts of the world. I work a lot, and I race a lot, and I always tell myself it's something I'm going to start doing — venturing off to different parts of the world when I get the time to. I'm grateful, and I'm looking forward to it."

The last U.S. driver to win the WDC was Dave Magee in 1995.

"I'll try to get a championship for America," Beckwith said. "I don't think of it as any pressure, I think of it as an added bonus. It's cool enough just representing your country, but to get the win for it, that would be huge."

The WDC will begin at Kaikoura Raceway, which will host the first two days of the 20-race event, Nov. 2 and Nov. 3. Cambridge Raceway, Addington Raceway and Central Southland Raceway will follow before the championship wraps up with a one-race return to Addington on New Zealand Cup Day, Nov. 11.

"I'm a pretty avid race-watcher," Beckwith said. "I've watched races from down there, I've watched the New Zealand Cup, so I've got a little bit of an eye for it."

Beckwith followed his parents, driver Mark and trainer Melissa, into harness racing, but the family's roots run deeper. Melissa's late father, trainer Jerry Silverman, was inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame in 1919 and her brother, Richie, was the first Dan Patch Rising Star Award winner in 1986. Mark's late father, Bert, was one of New England's most respected horsemen of the 20th century.

Beckwith got his first win in 2019 but didn't begin driving regularly until two years later. In 2024, he set career highs with 608 victories and \$6.27 million in purses while capturing the driving title at Saratoga and sharing the honor at Plainridge Park.

This year, Beckwith has 152 wins and \$1.08 million in purses. He leads the way in victories at Saratoga again, and he is also atop the standings at The Meadowlands.

"Everything has gone exceptionally well, which is hard to say because of how great last year went," Beckwith said. "I didn't really go into this year with any goals because I thought it would be slightly unrealistic to expect to win 600 races again in a year. That's hard to do, I don't care who you are. I hustled all year for that, and this year has started off better win percentage wise, and The Meadowlands has been really good to me so far."

"It's wild," Beckwith added as he reflected on his career. "When you're in the moment, you don't think about it. I've raced almost seven days a week for the last two or three years, so you don't really get a chance to look back and think on it. The times when it comes into your head, you're like, wow. You're reminded of a memory from three or four years ago, and you can't believe you came that far."



JESSICA HALLETT

**Brett Beckwith will represent the U.S. in New Zealand this November.**

## Slot owners drawn for Mohawk Million

The slot owners for the 2025 Mohawk Million are set following a draw on Wednesday afternoon at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

A total of 37 individuals/groups put in to purchase a slot in this year's Mohawk Million, which led to a draw to determine the 10 slot owners. Each of the 10 slots was priced at C\$50,000.

The winners of the slot draw are listed below:

Bud Hatfield  
Diane Bertrand  
Bill Pollock  
Brad Grant  
Allister Stable  
Bruce Northover  
Kyle Northover  
Hunterton Farms & Partners  
Casie Coleman  
Kemppi Stable Inc.

Each slot is an entity that may be sold, traded or leased. Slot owners must declare a horse to race in their slot by Monday, September 15 at Noon.

The 2025 Mohawk Million for 2-year-old trotters will take place on Saturday, September 20 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

-edited release (Woodbine)

## Florida decoupling legislation amended

By Matt Hegarty

A bill that would allow Gulfstream Park in Hallandale Beach, Fla., to run its casino without any statutory obligations to racing was amended on Monday in a committee hearing to guarantee live racing at the track for at least five years.

The bill, which had already passed out of a House subcommittee, was passed by a 13-7 vote of the House Commerce Committee after amendments were attached to the bill that would require a three-year notice of any plan to cease live racing and that would allow existing Thoroughbred track owners to transfer their racing permits to different facilities. Under the amendment, the three-year notice could not be issued prior to July 1, 2027.

Although the amendments appeared crafted to address concerns by horsemen that Gulfstream would immediately fold up its racing operation if the track was allowed to decouple its racing and casino licenses, leaders of a lobbying effort put together to oppose the bill called the changes "terrible" on Tuesday morning.

"Our goal remains the same, to defeat decoupling," said Damon Thayer, a former Kentucky Senate Majority Leader who is the senior consultant to the group, which is called the TRI.

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# The caretaker, Chantilly and a cherished connection

Every time caretaker Candace Nivins and the imperturbable filly Chantilly step out of the Woodbine Mohawk Park paddock and into the spotlight of the racetrack, they share an unspoken understanding of what that moment represents.

"She is the only horse that has ever showed me, 'If you get me ready, I will take it from here,'" said the 27-year-old Nivins.

In her nine lifetime races, the undefeated Chantilly has delivered on her promise, impressing her connections: owner and breeder George Millar, trainer Nick Gallucci, and Nivins.

A daughter of Big Jim-Shiraz Seelster, marked by dark spots on her white hind pasterns, Chantilly has been flawless since her emphatic 4 3/4-length debut victory on July 9, 2024 at Woodbine Mohawk Park.

Sent off at 2-5 in an Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Grassroots Series leg, she paced the mile in 1:54. Chantilly came into the race off one qualifier, a 1:59 4/5 mile on June 28 at Mohawk.

One week later, Chantilly rallied from fifth at the half to win by 2 1/2 lengths in 1:50 4/5, pacing the final quarter in 26 1/5 in her OSS Gold final.

Those performances left Nivins nearly lost for words.

"After the qualifier, I was blown away," she recalled. "When there was no second qualifier and she debuted in the Grassroots, I was speechless. Then, after her Gold win, I was at a loss for words again."

Nivins never saw it coming.

Fate played a part in bringing the pacer and caretaker together.

"I didn't meet Chantilly right away," recalled Nivins. "When she came down from the broodmare farm, she wasn't assigned to me. Her groom left about two or three months before her career began, and that's when Nick knew I had an open spot and gave her to me."

"She would sleep a lot. She was just very quiet. She wasn't finicky at all. I had never had a horse who was so straightforward and easy to work with."

Nivins, who has worked with several standout horses in the Gallucci barn over her four years as a caretaker — including Silver Label, Velvet Stinger, Power Train, Chain Gang, Win Me Back, and Bettorbackleup — soon realized by the year's end just how special Chantilly is.

After her two OSS crowns, Chantilly won her next seven starts, capped off by a 6 1/2-length triumph in her season-closing OSS Gold Super Final event. Other wins included the C\$532,000 Shes A Great Lady final and the C\$110,000 Eternal Camnation final.

She went off as the mutuel choice in all nine races. Three of the victories came from post eight. Her purse earnings totaled C\$761,000.

At the 36th O'Brien Awards, Chantilly was named Canada's 2-Year-Old Pacing Filly of the Year and Somebeachsomewhere Horse of the Year. She became just the fifth 2-year-old — and only the third pacing filly — to be named Canada's Horse of the Year, joining Emilie Cas El, Whenuwishuponastar, Somebeachsomewhere and JK Shesalady.

Chantilly's on-track success helped Millar Farms earn its third Armstrong Breeder of the Year award and the title of leading owner at Woodbine Mohawk Park. Gallucci won his first Trainer of the Year title, while James MacDonald, who drove Chantilly in all her victories, earned his fourth consecutive Keith Waples Driver of the Year award.

"Honestly, I never saw this coming," said Nivins. "'Tilly' never shows anything during training. If the other horses went slow, she did too. It wasn't until the first Gold race that I thought, 'Wow... she's something special.' This has all felt like a dream."

A most unexpected one for Nivins.

"When I was in college, I did a job placement for a week or two. I became good friends with (long-time harness participants) Heather and Ken Hofacker. I finished my schooling, had one caretaker job with a different breed that didn't work out and then moved on to work for a dairy farmer. I saw a post online for the groom job with Nick and Millar Farms, so I reached out to Heather, and she said they are awesome people and it's a great place to work."

That was something she discovered early on.

"You fall into a rhythm, and you watch these horses grow and develop. You see the horses gain confidence and you do the same. I had a very good first year, the second year was even better, the third year topped that and here we are."

Where it leads and what comes next for Chantilly is to be determined.

On March 10, it was announced 69 3-year-old pacers have been nominated to this year's \$1 million North America Cup (G1) at Woodbine Mohawk Park. The 42nd edition of Canada's most prestigious harness race is set for June 14.

The headliner of the impressive list of Cup nominees is Chantilly. She is believed to be the first filly ever nominated to the North America Cup.

"I try not to think too far ahead," said Nivins. "I'm excited, but I prefer to take things day by day with her. If she races in the Cup, it would be an amazing story and fantastic publicity for our sport... but it wouldn't change how I feel about her. She's a confident horse, and if she does race, I know she'll make us all proud."

"After every win last year, the superstitions and holding your breath start setting in. It's why I like to live in the moment with her and any of our horses."

When Chantilly does make the first start of her sophomore season, Nivins, who lives on the Millar farm, knows what to expect as the minutes before post time tick down.

"In the paddock, I'm a mess and she's as cool as can be. She's chilling, just hanging out, I have my music playing, trying to drown everything out and stay focused."

Then, just as they've done nine times before, Nivins and Chantilly will walk together, both understanding the unspoken bond they share.

"Just before I let her go, she gives me a sense of calm. She is telling me, 'Don't worry... I will take care of you for this part, and you take care of me for the other parts.'"

**-edited release (By Chris Lomon for Woodbine Mohawk Park)**



NEW IMAGE MEDIA

**Candace Nivins takes care of top 3-year-old filly Chantilly.**

## AFTER THEY RACE, WE FIND THEM A PLACE



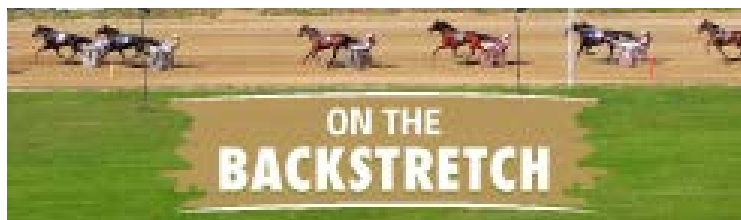
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**BY DERICK GIWNER**

While Patrick Ryder was born into harness racing as the son of Hall of Fame trainer Chris Ryder, he certainly didn't jump in feet first at the start. The 30-year-old started his driving career in 2021 at age 26 and has seen his totals steadily increase. While his 92 career wins don't jump off the page, he won 59 of them last year and already has eight in just 62 starts in 2025.

After working at the barn in the morning, Patrick took some time out to discuss his path thus far, his recent three-bagger at The Meadowlands and what his future holds. Enjoy!

## DRIVER PATRICK RYDER

**You were exposed to harness racing by your dad Chris Ryder. Did you love it from the start or did it take time for that to happen?**

I always had a love for animals, even as a really young kid. When I was a young kid I wanted to be like Steve Irwin [The Crocodile Hunter]. I didn't necessarily love horse racing when I was first exposed to it but I definitely loved the horses. As I got a bit older, like 12 to 14, I started to like horse racing.

**How did your involvement with harness racing get to where it is now?**

I worked with my father for a lot of summers at the barn. I really enjoyed just getting to spend more time with my dad because he was always so busy racing. I kind of had a dream that I always wanted to drive from a young age but I never really thought it would be a possibility. I started jogging and training at the farm a lot and one thing led to another.

Ronnie Pierce was great to me as a young kid. He was like a dad to me and I always looked up to him as a young driver. I was great friends with his kids growing up and he and my dad have been friends forever. He loves the outdoors, like hunting and fishing, and my dad wasn't so much into that stuff, so Ronnie would take me like I was one of his sons. He took me a lot over the years.

**Is it true that there was a chance you would be completely disconnected from harness racing?**

It is true. Me and my wife [Nadia Tarnawa] bought a house in Colorado and I just wasn't ready to move out there and give up working with my father or driving. I kind of decided before but it was a definitive moment because if we would've went it would've meant the end of harness racing for me. We found out my wife was pregnant with my son and it just didn't make sense to go.

**From your start in 2021 you have increased your number of drives, wins and earnings each year. Are you happy with the progression?**

I feel like I've been working pretty hard and I work with my father in the barn every day. I'm not that happy with the progression, I'd like it to be faster, but I'm so pleased with the opportunities I've been given and I'm very hungry still; I'm not content.

**Did you see a clear path to a faster progression?**

I'm hoping to get to drive better caliber horses this year. I think I've kind of proven over the last year and a half or so that I can win races. I'd like to try more stakes horses, better caliber horses. I think that is the path to a faster progression, maybe.



COURTESY NADIA TARNAWA FACEBOOK

**Patrick Ryder with his 3-year-old son Harry.**

**You won 13 of your 59 races at Freehold Raceway in 2024. How much has the closure of that track affected you?**

It sucks. It really stinks. It is really hard to drive much power when you are at the tracks with all the leading drivers in the country. It was awesome to have Freehold right around the corner from us. My dad drove there for years. It is a real shame that it is gone. Instead of driving the longer shots in races, at Freehold there were some times when I got to drive the favorites.

**Recently you won three races on one card at The Meadowlands. Is that almost like a dream come true?**

It was pretty cool, especially to win three on one card. If you would've told me before the night that I had a chance to win three that night I wouldn't have believed you. It just worked out.

**What is your favorite track to race at? Why?**

I love The Meadowlands because there is nothing like winning races there, but I definitely enjoy driving at Chester [Harrah's Philadelphia] too. I like five-eighths mile racing and I feel like I drive well at Chester but there is nothing like winning on the mile track at The Meadowlands.

**What is your favorite thing to do outside of harness racing?**

Spend time with my wife and son [Harry]. I really love snowboarding, also, but it has been a little tougher to do that lately.

**What is one thing about you most fans/bettors don't know?**

I worked on a commercial lobster fishing boat for a few years. I wanted to be a professional snowboarder for a little while, too.

**What is one word that describes harness racing for you?**

Thrilling. There is nothing like it.

**What is the best advice you've ever gotten about harness racing?**

My father has given me so much advice it is hard to remember just one. I think the best advice that he is giving me is to just keep at it. Sometimes things can be so discouraging, like you go drive a whole card of horses and not one of them get a check. Then a few weeks later you end up winning three races in one night at The Meadowlands, so I think it is pretty good advice.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



## ON THE BACKSTRETCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

### What was your best moment in harness racing?

Finishing second with my filly that I bought at the yearling sale for \$21,000 named Lisa Lane. We finished second in the New Jersey Sire Stakes by a nose going for like \$240,000. I hadn't been driving very long at that point, she's 5 now, so it was three years ago. That was pretty special because I owned 50 percent of her with my father.

### How many horses do you currently own?

I don't own 100 percent of any of them but I own pieces of four horses. I usually buy a piece of a yearling with my father, sometimes more than one depending on what the prices are like.

### Do you train any horses yourself?

I don't have any horses in my name but I've been working closely with my father every morning for years now. All of the horses I own race in my dad's name but my father and I work very closely running his business.

### Do you envision at some point going the training route or driving and training?

My priority is really to drive but especially as my father gets older there could definitely be room for me to train too.

### Which is the best horse you've ever driven?

Probably Tarrific. I just drove her one time in a smaller stakes race at The Meadowlands because Dexter [Dunn] wasn't going to be there. She had a few big races coming up and my dad just wanted her to have an easy run because she had quite a few tough races on the front. I got to drive her that day and that was pretty cool. I've sat behind [training] some really nice ones for my dad like Bettor's Wish, Niki Hill and Party Girl Hill, but I've never driven them in a race.

### You've mentioned all of these top horses. One of them is also Horse of the Year Twin B Joe Fresh. It must be nice to train them daily?

Oh yeah. To be completely honest, I don't ever sit behind Twin B Joe Fresh. My dad or [co-owner] Pete Trebotica always take her. But every other good horse he's had I've always trained them. I guess because Pete owns a piece of her he always sits behind her, which is great.

### One of the horses you've been driving regularly is the lightly raced 5-year-old Luke's Bar. Do you see him continuing to improve?

We tried a little something different with his shoeing the other night and it just didn't suit him. It is hard to say how much he can improve but I really enjoy driving him. When I first started driving him I didn't

enjoy it at all. He was too hot and he would go like crazy to the half and trot in the stretch really bad. My dad made a few changes on him, opened him up and put a mini-bit on him, and it totally changed his whole demeanor around. Now I love driving him. You can drive him however you want now and he just tries so hard. No matter how tired he is when you turn for home, when you pull the ear plugs out he just gives his all no matter what he's done in the mile. I feel like it is rare that you come across one that tries as hard as he does.

### What is your ideal vision for the future of your career?

Drive on the Grand Circuit; travel all over and drive as many big races as I can.

### If you had the power to change one thing in the sport, what would it be?

I'd love to find a way to get rid of the people that don't treat horses correctly, but that is easier said than done. I just think a few bad apples cause people that don't know our business to have a negative connotation to it. A lot of them don't realize that if they just spent a couple of days around the barn and saw the way 99 percent of people treat the horses, they would be amazed. Our horses get treated like royalty. They have caretakers and all sorts of therapeutic things to take care of their legs and feet.



Patrick Ryder steering Luke's Bar to victory at The Meadowlands.

LISA PHOTO

### How do you view the future of harness racing?

I'm a super-optimistic person. If someone comes to me with a whole bunch of bad news I instantly look for the good in it. My mom [Nicola] taught me to be like that a little. On the East Coast we have The Meadowlands and it is wonderful, but a lot of the other tracks, especially with Freehold gone and the purses going down at Chester, it is a little worrying. It seems like Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana are booming for racing in the present but I'm still optimistic that things will be ok here on the East Coast.

### What does a day in the life of Patrick Ryder look like?

I wake up and go to train with my father at the barn. I usually finish around 1pm or so and it depends if I'm racing or not. In the summer I'm racing almost every day. I'm usually at Pocono Monday and Tuesday, Chester on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and then Meadowlands Friday and Saturday nights. In the winter it is a lot nicer because I'm pretty much racing at just The Meadowlands. When I'm done at 1pm I go home to shower and get a bite to eat before picking up my 3-year-old son from daycare. Then I usually do something with him while waiting for my wife to come home from work so we can cook dinner and hang out.

### Time for the stretch drive.

**Best Horse you ever saw:** Twin B Joe Fresh. She's amazing.

**Lasix – Yes or No:** Yes.

**Favorite TV Show:** I don't really have one. I liked that Peacock show The Jackal.

**Trotters or Pacers:** Pacers.



# Horses prepping in Big M qualifiers

With spring having officially sprung early this (March 20) morning, it's now the time of year for some of the better horses to come out of their cold-weather hibernation and start to prepare for the 2025 racing season.

Followers of The Meadowlands know this is true, and those same followers know that qualifiers at the mile oval sometimes have more marquee performers than the pari-mutuel card that takes place later the same evening.

There will be seven qualifiers at The Big M on Saturday (March 22) afternoon, and there are several big names who will be knocking off their cobwebs in preparation for the upcoming year.

The qualifiers begin at 4 p.m., and can be seen live on The Meadowlands website ([playmeadowlands.com](https://playmeadowlands.com)) or [rtn.tv](https://rtn.tv) (Racing Television Network). To see the entries, go here.

The biggest name qualifying is Grace Hill. The 7-year-old daughter of Always B Miki-Western Silk, who won the 2023 Dan Patch Older Pacing Female of the Year trophy, has won 37 of 82 lifetime starts, good for a bankroll of \$1,933,458. She's in the sixth qualifier and will depart from post two with Jason Bartlett listed to drive.

Grace Hill had a solid 2024, winning eight of 21 outings and banking over \$191,000. In addition, she was the only female to defeat Twin B Joe Fresh during that one's Horse of the Year campaign.

"She came out of last week's qualifier very well," said trainer Virgil Morgan Jr. "I entered her to race at The Meadowlands this weekend but her race didn't fill, so we are qualifying again."

"Her target first race of the year is the Matchmaker at Yonkers on March 28. She's definitely right on schedule. She has a long year of stakes, so we will pick our spots. [Owner] Tom Hill is really good about letting me manage her as to when to race, when to give her weeks off, etc."

Last year, Grace Hill raced at The Meadowlands in the FanDuel Open Mares, Breeders Crown, Lady Liberty and Dorothy Haughton Memorial, so seeing her perform at the East Rutherford track this year several times seems highly likely.

Facing Grace Hill is Lit De Rose, who has post four for Pat Lachance. A year ago, the 10-year-old daughter of Leader Bayama-Intense won eight of 29 outings, good for earnings of \$349,460. Her big 2024 win came at Yonkers on April 22 in the \$276,200 Blue Chip Matchmaker Final.

Walkin On Sunshine, a winner of three straight \$35,000 Invitationals appearance of the year for trainer Brett Pelling from post six.

The Pelling-trained Rocket Deo (post two) tops the fourth qualifier. Among her 10 wins from 17 starts during 2024 was the Shady Daisy at The Big M. In addition, the 4-year-old daughter of Captaintreacherous-Rocklamation recorded her lifetime-best clocking of 1:48 3/5 in the Glen Garnsey at The Red Mile.

**MAD MAX IS BACK:** The current best horse in training at The Big M is Mad Max Hanover, and on Saturday (March 22) night, the Jake Leamon trainee will be gunning for his fifth straight win in the 10th-race feature, a \$25,000 winners-over pace.

The 6-year-old gelded son of Always B Miki-Mayhem Seelster, who is North America's fastest performer this year by virtue of a 1:48 2/5 clocking on Feb. 22, will depart from post nine with driver Brett Beckwith calling the shots. In his last two starts, 'Max' took down arch-rival For Once Inmy Life. He doesn't face that foe this time around, but will not have an easy time of it. Write Me A Rose looked good winning from post nine a week ago in 1:51 and will try to repeat from post five.

-edited release (Meadowlands)




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### THURSDAY, MARCH 20

#### RACE 10

(6) HEAD HONCHO won comfortably in his first start for his new trainer Joey Squires after converting off a pocket trip. He draws well again and will have every opportunity to work out a similar trip; repeat candidate.

-John Rallis



**WOODBINE**  
MOHAWK PARK

### FRIDAY, MARCH 21

#### RACE 6

(9) SEVEN SINS finished third last week behind a pair of horses that would be clear favorites in this field. Five-year-old drops back down to the level of his last win and should be firing off the wings of the gate.

-Derick Giwner



#### RACE 7

(1) BUCKTOBER has looked really sharp in two starts since shipping from Ontario and joining the Bako barn. He faces better here but I think he's up to the task.

-Matt Rose



### SATURDAY, MARCH 22

#### RACE 10

(9) MAD MAX HANOVER has been the King of the Thunderdome that is The Meadowlands for a couple of months now and there is no reason to believe this field can stop him considering many are back from layoffs.

-Giwner



### FULL CARD ANALYSIS / PAST PERFORMANCES

Mohawk Park Analysis [Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

Meadowlands Analysis [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

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HARNESS EYE PPS

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE HARNESS INDUSTRY

## FEAR RISING THAT ONTARIO RACING WILL BE DECIMATED BY TARIFFS

By Dave Briggs for Ontario Racing

The Ontario horse racing industry is warning it could be a major casualty in the trade war between the United States and Canada, and the fear is particularly palpable among horse breeders already struggling with rising costs due to inflation.

Arika Everatt-Meeuse, the second-generation owner of her family's Shannondoe Farm thoroughbred breeding operation near St. Thomas, ON, believes blanket 25% tariffs would end the Ontario horse racing industry that supports more than 23,000 full-time equivalent jobs in the province, contributes \$1.9 billion to the province's gross domestic product (GDP) annually and is responsible for more than \$327 million in yearly Ontario tax revenue. Breeders and other horsepeople are responsible for 80% of that GDP contribution.

"A 25% tariff on the product we are raising will be the end of the thoroughbred business in Ontario," Everatt-Meeuse said via text. "We have to export and appeal to U.S. buyers to survive."

Currently, U.S. tariffs are due to be applied to Canadian goods on April 2. However, there is uncertainty about but what will or won't happen.

In Canada, the federal government is ramping up a response with reciprocal tariffs on some goods. What's not clear yet is if the horse racing industry will be included in Canadian tariffs. The federal government is currently taking public input until March 25 about proposed countermeasures to U.S. tariffs. Industry leaders are strongly encouraged to submit input to better inform the government and request an exemption to Canadian tariffs for purebred breeding and racing animals. The form can be accessed here.

Even if Canada does not apply reciprocal tariffs on horses connected to racing, Canadian breeders are already facing a devastating financial hit from proposed U.S. tariffs of 25%.

**READ MORE on [ONTARIORACING.COM](https://www.ontarioracing.com)**

## REVISIONS TO BEACH GLASS STUD FEES FOR THE 2025 BREEDING SEASON

In an effort to address tariffs and currency fluctuations, Schooner ii Stables in partnership Winbak Farm have announced the following changes to Beach Glass 2025 service fees.

- The 2025 service fee for beach glass is now \$7,500.00 Canadian dollars
- FOR customers that have bred to Beach Glass in 2024, and are breeding the same mare or numbers of mares again this year, your 2025 stud fee will reduce to \$6,500.00 Canadian dollars.

**-release (Winbak Farm)**

## SIXTH EPISODE OF CREEKSIDE CHAT IS OUT

Creekside Chat REVAMPED has just dropped the 6th episode (the start of season 2). Creekside Chat focuses on going behind the barn doors, with on farm news, and segments on the harness racing industry at large.

The goal of Creekside Chat is to approach all industry topics, even the controversial ones, and to promote harness racing to the public. The most recent video was streamed 28,000 times. Creekside Chat is fully funded by Diamond Creek Farm and produced by an Emmy winning production company. In 2024 we had over 350,000 views on our YouTube channel, growing subscribers at a rate of 100 per month, making Creekside Chat currently one of the most successful harness racing media shows.

The show can be streamed on [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com), Apple Podcast and Spotify.

**-release (Diamond Creek)**

## PACING FOR THE CURE HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Pacing For The Cure is proud to offer six scholarships to deserving 2025 high school senior students looking to pursue higher education, either through college or trade school in 2026.

The scholarships, each valued at \$2,500 will be awarded to six prospective graduates in New Jersey, Maine, Ohio, Delaware/Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The scholarships are being awarded in honor of people special to the Pacing For The Cure cause, including Mr. Bill Gesek (New Jersey), Ms.

Jacqueline L. Graffam (Maine), Mrs. Barbara Carter (Ohio), Mr. Tom Tallman (Delaware/Maryland), and Mr. Jeff Altmeyer (Pennsylvania). Each of these people showed strength and dignity while dealing with the debilitating effects of their diseases and each had strong ties to the harness-racing industry.

In order to be considered for the scholarship, students must write a brief paragraph about key topics that provide the Pacing for the Cure Board with insight into their character, qualities, and achievements. They are also required to fill out the online application related to the region where they live under the scholarship section on the PFTC website.

It is important to note that the applicant, their parent, or their sibling must have a chronic illness or disability related to mobility that requires or may eventually require a mobility device or medical services.

Applications will start being accepted on Monday, March 24, 2025, and are due no later than Monday, June 30, 2025.

All applicants will be contacted by Friday, July 11, 2025, by the PFTC board to inform them of their decision.

Pacing For The Cure is also available to help those with medical needs. Although, initially formed to help those with Multiple Sclerosis, the organization is available to help provide mobility assistance and medical services for individuals living with autoimmune and neuromuscular diseases (in particular for Multiple Sclerosis, ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Cerebral Palsy, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Parkinson's Disease). The application can be filled out here: [mobility-and-services-application](https://www.pacingforthe.cure.org/mobility-and-services-application).

**-release (Pacing for the Cure)**

## LEGENDARY HANOVER - BOOKED FULL AND CLOSED

Syndicate manager David Reid has announced that the 2025 book is full and closed for Legendary Hanover, the multiple stakes, and Dan Patch Award winner.

Legendary Hanover set multiple track records including the Meadowlands Pace, Cane Pace, and the Empire Breeders Classic respectively. After his impressive p,3,1:46 3/5 track record performance at The Meadowlands, driver James MacDonald said, "He's all business, he is a scary animal that is simply very talented".

A gorgeous individual and former \$260,000 yearling purchase, Legendary Hanover is the richest and fastest son of world champion Huntsville.

Standing at Southwind Farm in New Jersey, "Legendary Hanover is being supported by many of the sport's leading breeders," Reid said.

**-release (Legendary Hanover Syndicate)**

## BARTLETT, ENGBLOM DOMINATE IN POCONO QUALIFIERS

Driver Jason Bartlett and trainer Per Engblom put on quite a show during a marathon 18-race qualifying session at Pocono Downs at Mohegan Pennsylvania on Wednesday morning. Bartlett led the field home ten times, while Engblom harnessed eight winners, and they paired together for seven victories.

Many of the horses out for the morning races were three-year-olds getting ready for the upcoming various Bobby Weiss Series for late-developing horses, including both of the fastest filly winners for their gait. Trainer Bruce Clarke took advantage of a pocket trip with Tagalong then sprang in the stretch to trot to the win in 1:57, the daughter of Walner quickest among several filly success stories on the day for B Clarke Racing LLC and Patricia Waldeck. (There were male trotters entered Wednesday as well, but they were beaten out either by contemporary fillies or older horses.)

The Sweet Lou filly Sweet Odds was also a pocket rocket to lead her grouping with a 1:55 3/5 time for Team Bartlett/Engblom and Morrison Racing Stables. On the colt side, another Sweet Lou offspring, the colt Mad River, closed in 27 2/5 to complete a 1:53 1/5 mile for Bartlett/Engblom and owner Daniel Sarafian, but while this colt fits the Weiss conditions, he was not nominated for the series. The Weiss action starts a week from Saturday on March 29, and each of the four sophomore events will follow up three preliminary rounds with a \$50,000 Championship.

Open-class star pacers Desperate Man and A Rocknroll Star duelled in the last quarter in the quickest qualifier of the day, with the Shadow Play millionaire gelding Desperate Man catching his rival by 3/4 of a length while posting a 1:51 1/5 victory for driver Matt Kakaley, trainer Travis Alexander, and owner Kathy Cecchin.

**-edited release (Pocono/PHHA)**